

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 OPR-02 SY-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /120 W
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R 241139 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2615

INFO CINCPAC CP SMITH HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6431

E. O. 11 652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: STUDENT LEADER REPORTS ANTI- U. S. CAMPAIGN PLANNED

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: WEEKEND EDITIONS BANGKOK PRESS CARRY STORIES REPORTING THAT STUDENT LEADER THIRAYUTH BOONMI TOLD PAPERS THAT STUDENTS PLANNING CAMPAIGN AGAINST U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND. CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN WHEN UNIVERSITIES CONVENE FOR NEXT TERM IN LATE JUNE/ EARLY JULY. PRIME MINISTER THANOM AT APRIL 23 PRESS CONFERENCE IMPLIED SUCH A CAMPAIGN WAS INAPPROPRIATE GIVEN CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. WEEKEND EDITIONS OF BANGKOK PRESS CARRIED STORIES REPORTING THAT THIRAYUTH BOONMI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT) , TOLD PRESS THAT WHEN UNIVERSITIES CONVENE FOR NEXT TERM IN LATE JUNE/ EARLY JULY, A CAMPAIGN WILL BE MOUNTED AGAINST THE U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND. APRIL 22 BANGKOK POST REPORTS THIRAYUTH REFUSED TO DIVULGE DETAILS OF CAMPAIGN AS PLANS STILL BEING WORKED OUT. APRIL 21 WORLD ARTICLE QUOTES THIRAYUTH AS SAYING " COUNTRIES WHICH WANT TO
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REMAIN AMERICA'S ALLIES HAVE TO THINK LIKE AMERICANS ;
IF THEY DON'T, THE FATE OF PRINCE SIHANOUK IS AN EXAMPLE
OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN."

3. APRIL 23 POST ITEM STATES THAT PRESIDENT OF THAMMASAT
UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION SAMPHAN SETTAPHORN SUPPORTED
THIRAYUTH'S STATEMENT. SAMPHAN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
THAILAND'S SECURITY IS NOT SO SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY
EVENTS IN INDOCHINA THAT IS (THAILAND) NEEDS U. S. BASES
(SIC).

4. APRIL 22 POST ITEM ALSO REPORTS THIRAYUTH SAID STU-
DENTS ARE " MIFFED OVER THE AMERICAN DEMAND FOR EXEMPTION
FROM THE TWO ALIEN LAWS PROMULGATED... TO GIVE THE
LOCAL PEOPLE A BETTER CHANCE IN COMPETING WITH
FOREIGN BUSINESSES."

5. LONGEST ACCOUNT OF THIRAYUTH'S VIEWS APPEARED IN
INTERVIEW WITH HIM CARRIED BY THAILAND LANGUAGE DAILY
PRACHATHIPATAI APRIL 21. ACCOUNT HAS THIRAYUTH SAYING
SOME ACTIONS USG MAKE IT LOOK AS IF THAILAND IS A
TERRITORY OF U. S., CITING P. X. AND THREATS TO CUT OFF AID
(SIC). REPORTS CONTINUE THAT THIRAYUTH STATED U. S. PRESENCE
AT AIRBASES SOLELY IN THE INTERESTS OF U. S., USE OF BASES
RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASE OF TERRORISM, AND PRESENCE CAUSES
DRV TO SUSPECT THAILAND'S ATTITUDE.

6. IN PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 23 THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE
TRANSPIRED BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER THANOM AND REPORTERS:
QUOTE

REPORTED: WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE DEMAND MADE BY
THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE STUDENTS CENTER FOR THE
WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN BASES FROM THAILAND?

THANOM: WHAT IS HIS REASON?

REPORTER: HE SAYS THE TIME HAS BEEN REACHED FOR THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THOSE BASES FROM OUR COUNTRY.

THANOM: DO YOU THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE IN THE
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INTERESTS OF THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY?
IN ANY ACTION WE TAKE WE MUST CONSIDER NATIONAL STABILITY
AND SECURITY.

REPORTER: HAS THE TIME BEEN REACHED YET WHEN THE
SUBJECT SHOULD BE TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION ?

THANOM: THE COMMUNISTS ARE STILL CARRYING ON SUB-
VERSION INSIDE OUR COUNTRY AND THERE IS STILL STEADY
INFILTRATION FROM OUTSIDE.

END QUOTE.

TODAYS PETERS CARRY SHORT ITEMS BASED ON EXCHANGE.

7. THIRAYUTH, A SENIOR AT CHULALONGKORN MAJORING IN
ENGINEERING, HAD IN JANUARY COMPLAINED TO PRESS THAT
EMBASSY WAS TRYING TO SECURE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR
AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN THAILAND. THIRAYUTH APPARENTLY
FEELS COMPELLED TO KEEP NSCT AT HIGH LEVEL OF VISIBILITY
BY RAISING ISSUES LIKELY TO GET PRESS COVERAGE. HE HAS
ALSO BEEN ACTIVE CRITIC OF ALLEGED JAPANESE ECONOMIC
DOMINATION. HE AS JUST RETURNED FROM VISITS TO INDONESIA,
JAPAN, AND HONG KONG UNDERTAKEN IN HIS CAPACITY AS NSCT
SECRETARY GENERAL. DURING TRIP HE CONTINUED CRITICISM
OF JAPANESE BUSINESS IN THAILAND. AS TO "CAMPAIGN"
AGAINST U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE WHICH THIRAYUTH SAYS HE PLANS
TO ORGANIZE, SUCH A CONCEPT MAY STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORD
IN SOME STUDENT CIRCLES. HOWEVER AT THIS JUNCTURE WE DOUBT THAT
IT WILL GO BEYOND PARAMETERS OF " INDOCHINA WEEK" HELD AT THAMMASAT
UNIVERSITY REPORTED IN BANGKOK 2667.
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